

**Economic Development Task Force Kick-Off Meeting**  
**Alabama Long-Term Community Recovery**  
**07-07-2011, 1000 CDT**

*This Task Force is designed to ensure that all State, Federal, local and non-governmental partners bring all of their resources together in a coordinated manner and “think outside the box” to solve community-wide recovery issues as they are identified.*

*Next meeting: July 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Alabama Center for Commerce, Montgomery, AL*

**Major Topic Summary: Examples of Long-Term Community Recovery**

*Are there good examples of successful long-term community recovery processes in other disaster-affected communities?*

1. FEMA ESF #14 has examples documenting long-term community recovery processes that have taken place in communities in other disasters (like [Greensburg, KS](#) and [Rebuild Iowa Office](#)).
  - a. The successful multi-agency **partnerships** used in other community recovery efforts can be a model for Alabama’s recovery.
2. Higher capacity communities like Tuscaloosa that are further along in the recovery process may be able to offer lower capacity communities peer-to-peer counseling to help them overcome recovery challenges they have in common.

**Major Topic Summary: Communication among Task Force Members**

*How will the Task Force **communicate** and **coordinate** their efforts?*

1. FEMA LTCR has set up communication and coordination teams within the Long-Term Community Recovery team.
2. The ADECA Long-Term Community Recovery website will become a primary tool for communication and coordination.

**Major Topic Summary: Resources Database**

*Can this Task Force come up with an innovative way to ensure information about available resources is easily accessible?*

1. Creating an online database of funding and other resources linked through the ADECA long-term community recovery website is a possibility.
  - a. FEMA Long-Term Community Recovery (ESF #14) develops a resource guide DVD for each disaster that is as inclusive as possible of available State, Federal and private funding sources. Development is underway.

## **Economic Recovery Task Force Partners & Resources:**

### **Economic Development Administration (EDA):**

- Possible grants if a specific disaster appropriation is made to provide the funding. Otherwise, public infrastructure, planning, and technical assistance grants are available on a competitive basis.

### **Alabama Department of Finance:**

- Small grants (\$1-5K) are available to businesses and communities for various needs through the Department of Finance.

### **Economic & Community Development Institute (Auburn University):**

- Technical assistance and training regarding economic development

### **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation:**

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### **Manufacture Alabama:**

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### **Alabama Industrial Development Training:**

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### **Delta Regional Authority:**

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### **Small Business Development Centers (SBA):**

- SBDC services include, but are not limited to, assisting small businesses with financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering and technical problems and feasibility studies
- All services given at SBDCs are free and confidential.
- Certified business counselors are available in 12 Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) located at member university partners across the state. Members include SBDCs at Alabama A & M University, Alabama State University, Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, Troy University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of North Alabama, University of South Alabama, and University of West Alabama.
- The new SBA Business Disaster Center is located at 800 22nd Ave, behind Regions Bank, in downtown Tuscaloosa. Local officials requested these experts be stationed locally temporarily to expedite the assistance to our business community. Businesses are encouraged to take advantage of this high level of service immediately.

### **Seedco Financial Services**

- Provide no-fee technical assistance services to small businesses, such as business consulting, loan and credit counseling, post-disaster document recovery, etc. Office is located in Birmingham, but Seedco is able to provide services statewide.

### **Additional Partners that should be on the Economic Recovery Task Force:**

- 1. Local Chambers of Commerce (and Chambers of Commerce Association of Alabama)**
- 2. Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA)**
- 3. Hospital Association**
- 4. Transportation Authorities**
- 5. Staff members from congressional offices**
  - a. Senator Richard Shelby**
  - b. Senator Jeff Sessions**
  - c. Representative Jerry Sewell**
  - d. Representative Spencer Bachus**
  - e. Representative Michael Rogers**
  - f. Representative Robert Aderholt**
  - g. Representative Mo Brooks**
- 6. Community Bankers Association**
- 7. Community Development Financial Institutions**
- 8. Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives (AREA)**
- 9. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**

## Issues Identified for Economic Development Task Force

### Issues Common to All Affected Communities:

- Workforce Development issues, such as need for construction workers ( training and licensing)
  - Veteran workforce is available and may be skilled for certain labor needs (via Veteran's Affairs).
- Regulatory bottlenecks
  - The Governor's Office is interested in identifying and addressing regulatory bottlenecks or other barriers to recovery.
  - For business documentation that may have been lost in the disaster- the Governor's Office is not collecting the usual fees for documentation and is making the process flexible.
- Small Businesses access to capital such as short term loans for expansion, operating funds, payroll, acquisition and development
  - AL Finance Department- grant money is available for various needs including operating costs and development, in small amounts (\$1-5K)
  - Seek GO Zone-type tax relief
  - Expand non-traditional lending sources, such as RLF program
  - Identify non-federal and non-traditional match money for communities and organizations.
- Technical assistance to help communities understand available resources, paperwork requirements and regulatory compliance.
- Workforce housing- affordability that is specific to location/economic group
- Businesses on destroyed property that it did not own- nowhere to go.
- Rebuilding to current building codes- cost and knowledge of codes an issue.
- Replication of [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for Alabama grant resources
- Public Infrastructure- determine if need is to rebuild to past condition and place or relocate and renovate.

### Issues for Small Communities:

- Very little community capacity to write grant applications
  - Regional Planning Commissions and Councils of Government
- Sources for matching funding for grants
  - FEMA Long-Term Community Recovery (ESF #14) develops a resource guide DVD for each disaster that is as inclusive as possible of available State, Federal and **private funding** sources.